

BEST AVAILABLE COPYAttorney Docket No. 54008.8080.US00
P01-0007

REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 4-18 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to describe the sonic energy source as associated with the liquid outlets, for example, as in Fig. 2 of the application. Claims 29-32 have been cancelled.

As recorded in the Interview Summary mailed February 3, 2005, during the January 24, 2005 interview, Applicant agreed to cancel claims 29 and 31 and amend claim 1. No agreement was reached. Claim 16 is allowed.

As discussed at the interview, and as noted at page 2 of the December 2, 2004 Final Office Action, the principle reference, Nakajima, does not disclose sonics or heating the liquid before applying the liquid to the workpiece. Nakajima also does not disclose a liquid layer, as claimed, because Nakajima is an immersion process.

The three secondary references are cited in the Final Office Action for disclosing sonics. Fukazawa does indeed disclose use of sonics. However, it does not disclose heating or use of ozone. Matsukawa et al. also discloses use of sonics, but in a different way, for a different purpose. In Matsukawa et al., sonics are used for atomizing the liquid, not for providing sonic energy to the wafer, as claimed. Miki et al. also discloses sonics, although the mechanism of use is not clear. However, Miki et al. tends to teach away from the use of ozone, because it operates in a partial vacuum. Miki et al. also does not suggest use of heating.

The elements of amended claim 1 are not found in the combination of Nakajima et al. with any of the other three references. In each combination: Nakajima et al. plus Fukazawa; Nakajima et al. plus Matsukawa et al.; and Nakajima et al. plus Miki et al., elements of amended claim 1 are missing. Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

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Entry of this Amendment is appropriate under Rule 1.116 because the ~~changes~~ to the claims place the application into condition for allowance, or narrow the ~~issues~~ (amended claim 1 remaining as the only unallowed independent claim after entry of this Amendment).

A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Dated: February 15, 2005

Customer No. 45540
Perkins Coie LLP
Patent - LA
P.O. Box 1208
Seattle, WA 98111-1208
Phone: (310) 788-9900
Fax: (206) 332-7198

Respectfully submitted,

PERKINS COIE LLP

By: Kenneth H. Ohriner
Kenneth H. Ohriner
Reg. No. 31,646